

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 121

Introduced by Senators Block, Jackson, Leno, Steinberg, and Wolk

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Fox, Levine,
Lowenthal, Medina, Nazarian, and John A. Pérez)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano,
Atkins, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan,
Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley,
Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong,
Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray,
Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones,
Jones-Sawyer, Linder, Logue, Maienschein, Mansoor, Melendez,
Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea,
V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas,
Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber,
Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

May 19, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to the memorandum
of understanding between Israel and California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 121, as amended, Block. Trade: Israel: memorandum of
understanding.

This measure would state the Legislature's support for the
memorandum of understanding for establishing strategic partnerships
between California and Israel.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Two-way trade between Israel and California
2 totaled over \$4 billion in 2013—one of the largest two-way trade
3 relationships between Israel and a United State; and

4 WHEREAS, California and Israel share close ties and are global
5 leaders in the alternative energy, environmental technology, and
6 other technology-based industry sectors; and

7 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest in-state innovation
8 network in the United States, which offers
9 technology-commercialization opportunities for Israel; and

10 WHEREAS, The Governor of California and the Prime Minister
11 of Israel have just signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
12 for strategic partnerships for joint innovation, exchanges, and
13 cooperation between California and Israel; and

14 WHEREAS, This action was the culmination of an effort started
15 in the California Legislature as Assembly Bill 1032 of the 2009–10
16 Regular Session, calling for the creation of the MOU geared toward
17 fostering the exchange of information and research. The MOU
18 will strengthen relationships with Israel and help California and
19 Israel grow in these areas; and

20 WHEREAS, The participants in this MOU seek to expand the
21 current level of cooperation between Israel and California in, but
22 not limited to, alternative energy, environmental technology, health,
23 food and agriculture, and other technology-based industry sectors,
24 business innovation, research, and development; and

25 WHEREAS, The MOU will also establish a formal relationship
26 between the two parties to foster economic cooperation and
27 economic development, facilitate joint industrial research and
28 development, and enhance business relationships and educational
29 opportunities between all Israeli universities and all California
30 universities to foster job creation and incubate global solutions
31 from joint California-Israel innovation initiatives; and

32 WHEREAS, Collaboration with Israel will foster peace and
33 democracy in the Middle East; and

34 WHEREAS, To achieve these aims, the MOU envisions
35 undertaking the following actions:

36 (1) Convening bilateral, interagency working groups with
37 international expertise to coordinate initiatives.

38 (2) Facilitating collaborations between Israeli and Californian
39 entrepreneurs and researchers through the California innovation
40 hub network.

1 (3) Supporting and encouraging further development of
2 interpersonal contacts and exchanges and to promote mutual
3 cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging ad hoc
4 task forces, trade delegations, and professional exchanges between
5 Israel and California in key sectors.

6 (4) Creating of public-private partnerships between Californian
7 and Israeli entities in the areas of economic development, social
8 entrepreneurship, or academic research.

9 (5) Strengthening sister city programs.

10 (6) Facilitating collaboration between universities in California
11 and Israel to foster research and development; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby supports the
15 memorandum of understanding for establishing strategic
16 partnerships between California and Israel that support joint
17 innovation in clean technologies, water conservation, health,
18 biotechnology, cybersecurity, education, agricultural technology,
19 research, and other informational exchanges, and that also promote
20 mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging
21 trade delegations and collaboration on mutual projects and issues
22 of interest; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.